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PTO IDENTIFIER:

10/707,960-Conf. #1959 Application Number

Patent Number

Inventor:

Toshio Chiba et al.

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US Patent and Trademark Office

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FROM:

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Attorney Dkt. #:

22040-00027-US

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CONTENTS:

IDS Form PTO/SB/08 (Citation) by Applicant (1 page);

Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages); Three (3) Patent Abstracts of Japan (3 pages) and Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8 (1 page)

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Docket No.: 22040-00027-US (PATENT)

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In re Patent Application of:

Toshio Chiba et al.

Confirmation No.: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

JAN 3 0 2004

Application No.: 10/707,960

Art Unit: N/A

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Dear Sir:

For:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the U.S. filing date (37 CFR 1.97(b)(1)).

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

A copy of each reference on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information

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Application No.: 10/707,960

Docket No.: 22040-00027-US

as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22040-00027-US.

Dated: January 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	January 28, 2004
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Toshio Chiba
OTATEMENT BY ALL CONTROL	Art Unit	N/A
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	Examiner Namo	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	22040-00027-US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initiala"	Cite No.	Document Number Number-Kind Code [†] (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Iniliais*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁶ (If known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentice or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines. Where Relevant Possages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	BA	JP-08-150124		Illzumi Hitomi, et al.		Γ
		JP-04-371134	12-24-1992	Kawakami Takashi		Ŀ
	BC	JP-07-255683	10-09-1995	Okubo Seiji		<u> </u>

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